

INFORMATION REPORT

CONFIDENTIAL

COUNTRY China

SUBJECT Railway Construction in Northwest China

PLACE
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1. A railroad line was completed in late summer 1950 from the USSR-Sinkiang border* to Karghalik (77-26, 37-54). The line extends north into the USSR; the train trip from Karghalik to Moscow has been reduced to six days.
2. More than 200,000 men are working on construction of a railway from Karghalik to Urumchi,** and from Urumchi to Lanchou and thence to Paochi (106-58, 34-16), where it is to connect with the line to the coast.*** Most of the laborers are from the 1 Field Army, under the command of P'ING Te-huai and HO Lung. Both technical supervision and construction materials are being supplied by the USSR. In addition to the troops, military and political prisoners are working on the construction.


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*  Comment. The border crossing point was not stated. From Karghalik the main road leads via Yarkand to Kashgar, from which it divides into several roads reaching the Soviet border. 25X1A

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 Comment.  reported plans to construct railroads linking Sinkiang and the USSR, but not in this area.

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 Comment. Road connections from Karghalik to Urumchi run either north or south of the Taklamakan Desert, making a junction on the northern side at Karashahr (86-34, 42-04) and thence going via Toksun (88-38, 42-47) and Tafanch'eng (88-17, 43-21) to Urumchi. Which route was being followed was not indicated.

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Next Review

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